D/H AND ¹⁵N/¹⁴N ISOTOPIC RATIOS IN ORGANIC MATTER OF ULTRACARBONACEOUS ANTARCTIC MICROMETEORITES.

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Introduction: Micrometeorites, extracted from ultra-clean snow near the CONCORDIA station in the central regions of Antarctica, are interplanetary dust particles well preserved from terrestrial weathering [1]. From such collections, it is possible to Ultracarbonaceous Antarctic Micrometeorites recover (UCAMMs) characterized by a high concentration of organic matter (OM) (> 50 vol%) [1, 2]. The OM of UCAMMs exhibits extreme deuterium excesses [1] and is nitrogen-rich with bulk atomic N/C ratios ranging from 0.05 to 0.12, suggesting that the OM of UCAMMs may have endured long-term irradiation at the surface of N-rich icy bodies beyond the trans-Neptunian region [3]. We present data on the hydrogen and nitrogen isotopic compositions of an UCAMM to shed light on the nature of its OM.

Methods: We analyzed an UCAMM fragment (DC94) crushed in a gold foil using the NanoSIMS-50 ion microprobe at Institut Curie (Orsay). We obtained secondary ion images of poly-atomic species (C_2H^- , C_2D^- , $C^{14}N^-$ and $C^{15}N^-$) using a high mass resolution (HMR) protocol [4]. We also measured elemental ratios (C_2^-/CH^- and C_2^-/CN^-) on the same areas. We calibrated the instrumental mass fractionation (IMF) using dedicated hydrocarbon and natural standards [5]. The data were acquired on six overlapping areas of $50 \times 50 \mu m^2$, covering the entire surface of the fragment ($125 \times 135 \mu m^2$).

Results: The hydrogen and nitrogen isotopic images allow to establish spatial correlations between the heterogeneous distributions of the D/H and $^{15}N/^{14}N$ ratios. The bulk of the OM is characterized by large D/H variations (with an average $\delta D \sim 3000 \%$) and a moderate ^{15}N enrichment ($\delta^{15}N \sim 60 \%$). Some areas exhibit extreme D excesses (δD up to ~ 24000 %) associated with large ^{15}N excesses ($\delta^{15}N$ up to ~ 1000 %). The isotopic maps together with their corresponding N/C and H/C maps suggest that the OM of UCAMMs contains different phases. Coupled TEM and C-, N-XANES STXM maps obtained on an UCAMM from the Japanese collection [6] and on two other UCAMM fragments from the CONCORDIA collection (DC18 and DC65) [7] also point towards the presence of at least two phases in this OM. The UCAMMs allow to study the association of OM and minerals in well preserved cometary dust.

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